



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher E-Mail calpeek@aol.com

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ELECTION PREVIEW

Editor's note: This is the issue where we wrap up the races for Statewide, Legislative, House, initiative and local contests. And always remember: *those who use a crystal ball sometimes eat glass...*

POLITICAL TRENDS & OVERVIEW

- **Turnout** - Calpeek sources are sticking with the Field Poll turnout forecast of 9.1 million voters. The CA Secretary of State's office is predicting a turnout of 9.3 million --- a 62% turnout...

- **Momentum** - There's no doubt that when the real campaigning began just after Labor Day, the GOP had everything going in its direction and there was a real fear Demos *wouldn't* vote due to the Clinton/Lewinsky scandal. But there's been a shift because GOPers in the U.S. House may have overplayed their hand, causing a backlash of public opinion over the impeachment inquiry. In the recent L.A. Times poll, 54% disapprove of Congress' decision to start impeachment hearings. And now Demo sources say their base is energized, especially here in Calif...

- **Demographics** - The once solid GOP voting base is in decline because as older GOP Anglos leave the voting rolls they are being replaced by new citizen voters who are registering as Demos or independents. This is one reason why insiders think Demo Gray Davis is leading Dan Lungren(R) for governor...

- **Fallout From 226** - If there was a huge mistake made by Gov. Pete Wilson and Calif. GOPers in the primary, it was **Prop. 226** - the anti-labor initiative which was defeated. The NO on 226 momentum has been carried over to the general election, with organized labor very energized and angry at the GOP...

- **Absentee Voting** - There will be record numbers of vote by mail(VBM) ballots Nov. 3rd, more than 25%. The VBM is a favorite campaign tool of the GOP and now organized labor is using it too...

- **Indian \$\$\$ & Latino Voters** - Two big factors in this election cycle. CA Indian tribes are spending big bucks on Prop. 5 and giving to candidates from both parties. Latino voters are again viewed as a key prize by GOPers & Demos. But a new poll for the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute indicates that Dan Lungren(R) gets only 12% of Latino voters vs. 70% for Demo Gray Davis. U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D) gets 65% vs. 14% for Matt Fong(R). Why? Latino anger aimed at the GOP for Props. 187, 209 and 226...

GOVERNOR'S RACE

...This race is over. The latest L.A. Times survey gives Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D) an 11-pt. lead over AG Dan Lungren(R) --- 53% to 42% among likely voters. The private tracking polls show Davis with an even bigger, double-digit lead. However, other **Calpeek** sources think Davis' lead will shrink. Why is Davis mashing Lungren? Davis has captured swing voters, moderates and pro-choice GOP women. He leads Lungren among moderates by a huge 71% vs. 22% margin. The big question is whether Lungren will crack 42%??? Our sources don't think so...

...Some **Calpeek** sources say Lungren's campaign is worse than the '94 effort of Demo Kathleen Brown and because his campaign continues to drain money away from other races, some GOP sources are worried that Lungren *could hurt* down-ballot GOP candidates. The bottomline, according to one **Calpeek** source, "Lungren is on auto-pilot toward defeat."...

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U.S. SENATE RACE

...U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D) is one of the luckiest politicians in Calif. She's been ripe for defeat since the beginning of this cycle, but CA Treasurer Matt Fong(R) can't put her away. Maybe he wasn't ready for prime time. The new L.A. Times poll shows Boxer with a 5-pt. lead - 48% vs. 43% among likely voters. The new Field Poll (released 10/29) has Boxer up by a 51% vs. 42% margin, thus the momentum seems to have shifted to Boxer...

...Fong's problem is money - not enough to counter the recent wave of negative tv ads by Boxer. But the recent disclosure by the S.F. Examiner about Fong's \$50,000 donation to The Rev. Lou Sheldon's Traditional Values Coalition, the Orange Co. based group with its anti-abortion and anti-gay agenda, has really set off a firestorm of controversy. The story has legs and Fong is now in danger of losing both his religious right and gay backing because of his written pledge to support gay rights. Not good news for Fong and sources now say this race *leans* Boxer...

DOWN-BALLOT RACES

☒ **Lt. Governor** - State Sen. Tim Leslie(R) and Assemblyman Cruz Bustamante(D) have been running neck-and-neck in most of the polls. But the newest L.A. Times surveys shows Bustamante drawing ahead: 35% vs. 26%, with a huge 35% undecided. Both are on tv, but sources say Cruz and the Demos have a huge GOTV effort in the Central Valley. This a key swing area and is Cruz's home turf. *Leans Bustamante*...

☒ **Controller** - This is a race where incumbency and money carries the day for Demo Controller Kathleen Connell over San Mateo Co. Sup. Ruben Barrales. The new L.A. Times polls shows Connell leading by a 47% vs. 24% margin. *Safe for Connell*...

☒ **Attorney General** - State Sen. Bill Lockyer(D) has the money and has won most of the key newspaper endorsements, but Chief Deputy AG David Stirling(R) has that great ballot title and just enough money to be competitive. The two have been within points of each other in the polls, except the new L.A. Times survey which shows Lockyer with a 41% vs. 28% lead over Stirling. Still a *toss up*...

☒ **Secretary of State** - Incumbent SOS Bill Jones (R) is trailing Demo challenger Michela Alioto in the new L.A. Times poll by a 39% vs. 37% margin. That is within the margin of error and prior to this Jones had a 5-8 point lead in two other surveys. While Jones has ALL of the key newspaper editorial endorsements, this is a contest where Lungren could hurt Jones. Both Jones and Alioto are on tv, but their buys are small compared to some of the other down-ballot candidates. Sources say this contest *leans Jones*...

☒ **Treasurer** - Demo businessman Phil Angelides and GOP Assemblyman Curt Pringle are locked in a very tight race, but Pringle has held a 3-6 pt. lead in most of the surveys. But the new L.A. Times poll shows Angelides pulling ahead: 37% vs. 32%, with a large undecided vote. Perhaps the reason is because Angelides has had a very substantial tv campaign vs. only 1 week for Pringle. FYI: the Angelides tv attack ad on Pringle & the '88 poll guard incident is *heavy*. Still *too close to call*...

☒ **Insurance Commissioner** - The L.A. Times refused to endorse either incumbent Chuck Quackenbush(R) or Demo Assemblywoman Diane Martinez. The latest L.A. Times poll shows Mr. Q with a 46% vs. 38% lead. *Leans Quackenbush*...

☒ **SPI** - Incumbent Sup. of Public Inst. Delaine Eastin is in a tough fight with Gloria Matta Tuchman. The new L.A. Times poll shows Eastin at just 34% vs. only 12% for Tuchman, with 54% undecided. And now Tuchman has money - thanks to a \$500,000 contribution from David W. Packard. Conservatives smell an upset. Outlook: *toss up*...

THE INITIATIVES

◆ **Prop. 5** - Indian Gaming. It's a *guilt thing* because Californians are still embarrassed about the way we've treated Native Americans. And the YES on 5 side has run one of the best campaigns of this cycle. They've totally *demonized* Las Vegas. The L.A. Times poll shows YES on 5 at 58%, with NO at only 38%. YES wins, but the NO side goes to court, arguing that #5 is a statute and it takes a constitutional amendment initiative to change Calif.'s Constitution. The YES side wants to win big because it will give the tribes more political clout with the new governor to negotiate a new gambling compact. FYI: **Calpeek** was wrong

when we estimated the combined spending for Prop. 5 would be \$75 million. It's \$86 million and climbing!!!

◆ **Prop. 9** - The Utility Initiative. The YES on 9 side is *hot air, no energy*. All the major daily newspapers and elected officials from both parties are opposed. NO on 9 has spent millions to stop this initiative. According to our sources, the private polling data shows NO nearing the 60% mark, with the YES side still hovering below 30%. The new L.A. Times survey shows NO at 42% vs. YES at 25%. Outlook: NO on 9 wins...

◆ **Prop. 10** - Tobacco surtax. NO on 10 (backed by the tobacco industry) is starting to close ground on the YES side, according to the new L.A. Times poll, which shows YES at 47% vs. NO at 43%. Most of the major daily newspapers are lining up on the YES side. Outlook: *leans YES*...

◆ **Prop. 8** - Gov. Wilson's educational reform plan. The only polling we've seen was done before NO on 8 went up with its \$6 million + tv/radio campaign (backed heavily by CTA). YES side has about \$650,000, which is being spent on 10-sec. tv ads. NO on 8 has won most of the newspaper endorsements and NO on 8 is on many of the slate cards. But YES on 8 was ahead by more than 60% in two current polls. It's impossible to tell exactly what's taking place without new data. Best guess: *toss up*...

U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS

...Only a few seats remain in Calpeek's war zone. At this point, most sources agree the open 1st CD will switch to Demo Mike Thompson, while the open 3rd CD will switch to GOp Doug Ose. Here's our brief rundown on other races we're watching...

...10th CD - leans Tauscher(D); 22nd CD - leans Capps(D); 24th CD - leans Sherman(D); 27th CD - leans Rogan(R); 42nd CD - leans Brown(D). All are incumbents...

☒ **46th CD** - U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez(D) held a 12-pt. lead in a Chapman Univ. poll (40% vs. 28%) over Bob Dornan(R) in early October. Now an L.A. Times survey of likely voters gives Sanchez a 14-pt. lead - 48% vs. 34%. Dornan is dropping lots of mail, but Sanchez is countering. *Leans Sanchez*...

☒ **36th CD** - Pres. Bill Clinton's fundraising help means Janice Hahn(D) will have money for a strong finish against GOP Assemblyman Steve Kuykendall. Hahn is hitting Kuykendall over tobacco, but if GOP moderates return home (which sources say they are), then this open CD *leans Kuykendall*...

☒ **49th CD** - San Diego Councilwoman Christine Kehoe(D) is giving U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray(R) a real run. Latest tracking poll by Evans/McDonough for Kehoe (Oct. 13-14, 400 likely voters), shows Bilbray holding a 5-pt. lead: 46% to 41%. An earlier tracking poll for Kehoe by the DCCC showed the race at 42% Bilbray vs. 35% Kehoe. Still *leans Bilbray*, but Kehoe has the bucks for a strong close...

CALIF. STATE SENATE

...There are five(5) races we're watching here. Most sources expect the Demos to retain control of the upper House. Here's our final wrap on these races...

■ **2nd SD** - When the dust clears, sources say both sides will have spent a combined \$5 million. Former County Sup. Wes Chesbro is in a tight race with GOP businessman John Jordan. Lots of mail, radio/tv on both sides. If you look at registration and voter history, this SD *leans Demo*...

■ **6th SD** - Sources believe that Demo Assemblywoman Deborah Ortiz has an edge over GOP rival Chris Quackenbush for this open seat. Ortiz is working very hard, pushing the pay raise for state workers as a key issue. *Leans Demo* IF the turnout is OK...

■ **12th SD** - Former Assemblyman Sal Cannella(D) is in a very tough fight with GOP incumbent Sen. Dick Moneith. Sources think this race could be close because Moneith was not paying attention while Cannella was on the attack. Now he is. GOTV is the key for a Cannella win. Still *leans GOP*...

■ **32nd SD** - Assemblyman Joe Baca(D) of San Berdu is the NRA's guy and GOP Chino Mayor Eunice Ulloa went after Baca on guns. The NRA wasn't thrilled. Sources don't think attacking Baca on guns in this SD is smart politics. Baca is on Handgun Control, Inc.'s list of Calif.'s Dangerous Dozen. Still *leans Demo*...

■ **34th SD** - This is the SD of incumbent Rob Hurtt (R-Garden Grove). It's on our watch list because Demo Senate Leader John Burton has decided to spend resources here to help Demo attorney Joe Dunn of Laguna Niguel. Still *leans GOP*, but keep watching...

STATE ASSEMBLY

...In early September, **Calpeek** was covering about 20 Assembly races. We're now down to 13, with 4 others on our watch list. Demos control the Assembly with a 43-37 advantage and sources expect the Demos to remain in control because they have a lead in fundraising: **4-to-1**. Here's how things look in the *Open Seat Battles* and *Incumbents Under Siege*...

■ **Open Seat Battles** - There are 3 GOP and 2 Demo open seats on the line. Sources believe Demos will hold the **53rd**(Bowen) with George Nakano(D) over Bill Eggers(R) and pick up the **35th**(Firestone) with Hannah-Beth Jackson(D) over Chris Mitchum(R). Sources also believe the **31st**(Bustamante) will remain in Demo hands with Sarah Reyes(D) defeating David Jackson(R). The two *toss ups* are in the **54th** (Kuykendall) - Long Beach Councilman Alan Lowenthal(D) vs Julie Alban(R); and the **61st**(Aguiar) - Bob DeMal-lie(R) vs Ponomia Councilwoman Neill Soto(D)...

■ **Incumbents Under Siege** - 3 Demos in this category are now considered **safe** by our sources: Susan Davis(76th); Jack Scott(44th); and Scott Wild-man(43rd). The only incumbent in *deep trouble* is Demo Sally Havice(56th). In fact, our sources think this race leans toward former Assemblyman Phil Hawkins(R)...

...In the **28th AD**, incumbent Peter Frusetta(R) is in a tough race with Salinas Mayor Alan Styles(D) but it still leans Frusetta. In the **78th AD**, incumbent Howard Wayne(D) is leading rival Jean Roesch(R)...

...The big *war zones* are in Orange Co.'s **69th AD**, where incumbent Jim Morrissey(R) and rival Lou Correa(D) are locked in a hot battle, with big bucks being spent by both sides. The other huge battle is in the Central Valley's **30th AD** between incumbent Bob Prenter(R) and rival Dean Florez(D). Florez is getting funding from Joint-PAC & the Demos and has been endorsed by the Fresno BEE & the Bakersfield Californian. Very close race...

■ **Calpeek's Watch List** - There are 4 open seats on GOP turf where the Demos are now engaged: **2nd AD** Richard Dickerson(R) vs. Francie Sullivan(D); **10th AD** Anthony Pescetti(R) vs. Debra Gravert(D); **37th AD** - Tony Strickland(R) vs. Roz McGrath(D); and **60th AD** Walnut Councilman Bob Pacheco(R) vs. West Covina Councilman Ben Wong(D). These are seats the GOP should have put away much earlier so that the Demos wouldn't even be looking at or funding. At least one of these seats may fall to the Demos...

LOCAL CONTESTS

◆ **L.A. Sheriff's Race** - In politics, *luck & timing* is as important as money & incumbency. For those who haven't heard, L.A. Co. Sheriff Sherman Block is in the hospital, in serious condition, following brain surgery for removal of a blood clot. Ten days ago, sources believe Block had a 60-40 chance of reelection against rival Lee Baca, a former chief in the LACSD. Now the reverse is probably true: Baca has a 60-40 chance of winning. Block supporters are urging voters to remain loyal --- because if Block should win, the Board of Supes could appoint a replacement...

◆ **San Diego - Measure C** to build a new \$411 million baseball stadium for the *Padres* (using taxpayer money to help fund the project), looks like a winner. Latest poll showed C's support over 60%...

◆ **Mayor's Races** - In San Jose, Calif.'s 3rd largest city, this race *leans to* Ron Gonzales, the former Santa Clara Co. supe. In Inglewood, this should be a *safe* election for incumbent Roosevelt Dorn. And in Anaheim, sources believe this will be a very close race between incumbent Mayor Tom Daly and Anaheim Councilman Bob Zemel, with a *slight edge* to Daly...

◆ **L.A. County - Prop. A**, to halt the use of local sales tax for L.A.'s \$300-million-per-mile subway, seems like a winner. Stay tuned...

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